

Clover Connection

Chisholm Trail District - Dickinson County
4-H Youth Development News & Updates
March, April, May, and June
Spring 2025

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Lots of Information Here

Please note that this is a multi-month newsletter covering March, April, May, and June. Keep it handy for reference the next several months. It will only be sent via 4HOnline and posted on our website. Please let us know if you would like us to print you a hard copy. The CKFF edition and July/August newsletter will arrive mid-June. As always, contact our office with questions (785-263-2001), watch for emails from 4HOnline, and our social media. We are glad to help!

77th Annual 4-H Basketball Tournament

The 4-H basketball committee of the Dickinson County 4-H Council hopes your clubs are looking forward to the upcoming tournament on **Saturday, March 15th** at the Chapman District Gym, 622 N Marshall, Chapman. Brackets and rules will be posted on the Chisholm Trail District 4-H events page at: https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/4_h/events/Events.html and sent out to club leaders.

CKFF Clean-up

CKFF Clean-up is scheduled for **Sunday, March 16 starting at 2 PM** at the fairgrounds. We have LOTS of leaves to remove from the fairgrounds, so bring your rakes, shovels, work gloves, and old bed sheets!

Special thanks to those providing large equipment like trucks, skid steers, and loaders, it makes the work that much quicker. In order to increase efficiency, club clean-up assignments have been made and are listed below. Every DK 4-H member who plans to participate in the fair is expected to help with clean-up. This is a team effort!

- **Concession Stand Square and Sterl Hall** – Navarre Boosters and Willowdale
- **Large Livestock Arena, barn 2 (new barn), center walkway** – Chapman Shamrocks, Detroit Ramblers, Sand Springs Rustlers, Solomon Wranglers
- **Small Livestock Arena, hog barn, dairy goat barn, west alleyway** – Holland Sunflowers, Newbern Wideawakes, Mt. Ayr Go-Getters
- **East side of Pine Street including horse barns, arena, rabbit/poultry barn** – Fragrant Hilltoppers and Jolly Jays

Chisholm Trail District 4-H Day

Great work by all who participated in our annual district-wide 4-H Day. 60 club members participated with 96 presentations given throughout the day. There were 39 participants in life skills judging. Best of luck to those representing us at Regional 4-H Day in Clay Center on March 22nd!

May 1 and June 1 Deadlines Fast Approaching

- Nomination deadline for steers and market heifers exhibiting at the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. **The nomination process is completely online, do your homework now! **
- 4-H Project Drop/Add - must be done on [4HOnline](#). No project changes may be done after **May 1st**!
- Bucket calf IDs. Form may be found on our [4-H forms page](#).
- Horse ID papers must be in the Extension Office by **June 1st**. This is a state rule and there will be no exceptions! [Form available here](#). **Breed registration papers will no longer be acceptable forms of identification and the NEW KS 4-H horse ID form MUST be used.** Beat the rush, get them in early!

Drop/Add – May 1

Please login to 4HOnline (<https://v2.4honline.com/>) and make sure your listed projects are correct before **May 1**. Keep in mind that market livestock projects with tagging dates prior to **May 1** (such as market beef and swine) cannot be added after the tagging date because fair rules specifying a minimum number of days of care/feeding required.

Regional Project Award Screening

Great work by all who submitted project records to regional screening. We were well represented by Kaylee Livingston in beef, Justin Latzke in Electric & Renewable Energy, Eyler Holt in Meat Goats, Carleigh Abeldt in Sheep and Joss DePew in Leadership and Dog. Best of luck to those who were selected as state project semi-finalists: Justin Latzke – Electric & Renewable Energy, Eyler Holt – Meat Goats, Carleigh Abeldt – Sheep, and Joss DePew – Dog.

DK 4-H Foundation Phone-a-thon and Donate Day

A huge thank you to those who signed up to help with the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation's Phone-a-thon on **Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5!** If you haven't signed up through your club leader and still want to help, please call or email. The funds raised will help with camp and other event scholarships for the entire year. **If you miss getting a call and your family would like to donate, please contact our office.**

Donate Dickinson County Day is being hosted by the Community Foundation on **Friday, March 21.** Donations made online or at the Community Foundation that day will be doubled for the DK 4-H Foundation up to \$5,000! [Donate here!](#)

Dickinson County 4-H Foundation Event Scholarships

Due to the generosity of supporters during events like the Phone-a-thon and Donate Day, the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation is able to provide scholarships to help all of our members attend not just 4-H camp, but other area, regional, state, and national 4-H events that interest them. The Foundation will cover up to 50% of the cost of 4-H events for enrolled members and adult volunteers that have completed the screening process. If the event cost is less than \$100, the event scholarship will cover up to \$50 of the cost. Event scholarships must be repaid entirely if unable to attend or if behavior warrants removal. Take advantage of this opportunity and be sure to return detail-packed thank you cards we can share!

4-H Camp at Rock Springs

Registration is open for all sessions of 4-H camp at Rock Springs Ranch! The Dickinson County 4-H Foundation is committed to making camp financially accessible for all of our 4-Hers. Thanks to financial gifts from Friends of the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation as well as a gift from The Allen and Evelyn Knopp Family (who are also DK 4-H Alumni), the first 43 4-Hers attending overnight, specialty, or mini-camp at Rock Springs Ranch the summer of 2024 will receive \$300 toward their camp registration fee! Apply now at <https://bit.ly/4-hcampscholarshipapp>.

The Knopp family believes in the Rock Springs Ranch camp experience so much that they are also providing a \$200 scholarship for a limited number of non-4-Hers to attend camp. If you have non-4-H friends that would enjoy camp as much as you do, they can apply for a scholarship at: <https://bit.ly/non4-hercampscholarshipapp>.

Learn more about camp at Rock Springs Ranch at <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/>.

Fully paid scholarships to attend Leaders in Training (LIT) sessions are available for those going into 10th or 11th grade and Counselor in Training (CIT) sessions for will-be high school seniors. Check out more information today at <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/sessions-rates/>. More information is also available on our [district 4-H events page](#).

Spring into Volunteering

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring into Volunteering" in Salina on the K-State Campus on **Saturday, April 26.** Registration will begin at 9 a.m., and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited, and ready to try new things in their volunteer roles.

Sessions for the day include Preparing Youth for Real-World Opportunities, Personalities and How They Affect Volunteers, Facilitating Civic Engagement and Service, Keeping Kids Engaged, and Resources for Volunteers.

The registration fee for the day is \$20 and includes materials and lunch! **Online registration is due April 15, 2025 with additional information at www.kansas4h.org.**

4-H Leadership SQUAD

All 4-H members 6th grade and up are invited to be a part of this dynamic group! Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month in February, April, June, and August. Participants promote the 4-H program, learn leadership skills, and put leadership into practice! Contact group advisors Shawna Riffel (riffelclan@eaglecom.net) or Becky Chase (r_ruthstrom@yahoo.com) with questions or just come to the next meeting!



Next 4-H Leadership SQUAD Meetings

When: **Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.**

When: **Monday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.**

Where: KSRE Office, Meeting Room

Who: any 4-Her 6th grade and up interested in learning about and practicing leadership skills!

Thank You Megan, Barbie, Cheryl, and Dorothy!

Wednesday, April 23 (office professional's day) is the date designated this year to let Megan, Barbie, Cheryl, and Dorothy know how much we appreciate the work they do for the Chisholm Trail District. Megan and Barbie work hard to assist every way they can with our 4-H program, Cheryl handles financials from the Marion County office, and Dorothy is learning more about Chisholm Trail District 4-H every day. They are always looking out for you, let them know you notice!

**Congratulations Graduates!**

Best wishes to those finishing high school. Thanks for your commitment to 4-H and to making the best better!

College Scholarship Opportunities

All Dickinson County 4-H Foundation scholarships have an **April 1st** deadline. There are 10 memorial scholarships available in addition to five \$1000.00 scholarships awarded by the Foundation. Other related scholarships:

- Sand Springs 4-H Scholarship (current or family membership in the club)
- AFA Scholarship
- Mary Louise Hoffman Scholarship
- Tokach Family 4-H Achievement Scholarship (must be a state project winner – request application)

More information and applications may be found online at https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/4_h/forms_and_applications/dickinson_forms_apps/index.html.

Volunteer Screening Process

Our 4-H program relies on volunteers to accomplish our Positive Youth Development goals. As a part of our commitment to these goals is the desire to provide a safe environment for learning. To help accomplish this, Kansas 4-H screens volunteers who work directly with youth. As a potential or current volunteer, we ask you to complete the screening process. This process will be accomplished through 4HOnline. As you set up your profile, the system will take you through the registration process. If it's your first time applying, please complete the [Outside Background Check](#) and contact Jill for a new volunteer interview.

NOTE: once completed initially, the outside background check only needs to be completed every three years and can be accomplished by letting our office know to re-submit your information.

Online Volunteer Orientation

The Volunteer Orientation needs to be completed by everyone applying to be a 4-H volunteer. It only needs to be done one time. **You will need to be enrolled as an individual in your family's 4HOnline account in order to access the training.** Instructions are available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online/docs/Volunteer%20Orientation%20Training.pdf>. The course consists of video modules and quizzes. Please let our office know when you have completed the orientation.

National Volunteer Week - April 20-26

National Volunteer Week is almost here. This special week offers opportunities to thank some of America's most valuable assets — our volunteers — and to recognize the myriad of ways they improve our communities. National Volunteer Week reflects the power that volunteers have to "inspire by example" — volunteers both encourage those they help and motivate others to serve! Ways to celebrate may be found at: <https://www.pointsoflight.org/nvw/>. Thank you to our Dickinson County 4-H volunteers!



Club Community Service Grants

Congratulations to those clubs receiving club community service grants this year from the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation! Community Service Grants of \$2550.00 were awarded to five clubs supporting special projects including Detroit Ramblers – creating barn quilts to be used as project labels in Sterl Hall for CKFF and to repair raised gardens at Enterprise Estates, Solomon Wranglers – hosting of “Operation Gorilla Family”, Fragrant Hilltoppers - maintaining bird feeders at a nursing home, Mt. Ayr Go-Getters – to replace rotted wooden truck at Hope Mini Park, and Newbern Wideawakes – to restock a Giving Box throughout the year. Thank you for making a difference in your community!

Wild Bill Buckle Bonanza (Beef!)

Will be held **April 5th**, this show will be open statewide and have county classes. See the [flyer](#) for more information.

**Youth for the Quality Care of Animals ***REQUIRED for ALL market livestock exhibitors*****

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training is required for all 4-H/FFA members exhibiting market livestock - beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats - at the Central Kansas Free Fair and all youth exhibiting livestock at the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. This training may be done in person or online.

In-person training will be scheduled soon. **Watch for an email with that date.** Online training may be done at any time, but should be completed prior to July 10, the pre-entry deadline for CKFF, or prior to nominating livestock for state shows (May 1 - cattle, June 15 - swine, meat goat, sheep). To register for YQCA please fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/YQCAREGISTRATION> to receive instructions on how to register online (required for both in-person and online training).

This training is sponsored for DK 4-H members by the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation. Thank yous may be sent to the Foundation in care of our office.

Food Safety of Frostings and Fillings - REMINDER

Research has been done and resources are available as you make decisions about frostings and fillings to use with fair exhibits. Food safety is essential and not all frostings and fillings are safe to store at room temperature. Resources on this topic may be found at: <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/judging/index.html>. Please note that safety calculations must be done by the exhibitor prior to judging. Our 4-H foods judges will not have time to make recipe calculations.

County Committees

The list of county committees was included in the December/January/February Clover Connection. Hopefully you've noted the committee you are on and are committed to be an active member of that committee! Please contact Jill for details. The committee list document may also be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/DKCNTYCMMT>

Dickinson County 4-H Council

Date: Monday, March 24

Time: 6:45 pm – officers, 7:30 pm – full council

Where: KSRE Abilene Office Meeting Room

Resources Made for You!

Check out the [Kansas 4-H Club Corner](#) for tools and resources for club support. [Kansas 4-H Clover Classroom](#) for 4-H project information and challenges.

Online ZBooks Available for 4-H Record Keeping

Record keeping and Project Reporting are valuable skills taught to members of the Kansas 4-H program. Members are encouraged to keep a permanent record of all 4-H and non-4-H experience and are encouraged to summarize their project experiences on the Kansas 4-H Project Report Form for project recognition. To help you through this process, please refer to the Guide to Kansas 4-H Project Recognition. Couple of items to make note of:

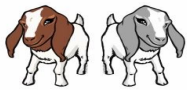
- Youth may choose to use either record keeping option: a.) the fillable PDF Project report forms or b.) the online ZBooks software
- The Permanent Record is included in ZBooks. If you choose to keep records with ZBooks, do not feel like you have to transfer over all of your previous years' activities into the online Permanent Record. Start with this year and attach it to your previous document.
- Click [here](#) for instructions and video tutorials for using ZBooks

CKFF Livestock Tag Sponsorship

Casey and DaLean Barten have volunteered to again sponsor tags for all livestock species. Please let them know how much we appreciate their generosity by sending a letter of thanks to them at: Bluestem Embryo Transfer Center, 735 900 Ave, Carlton, KS 67448.

Advanced Livestock Reproduction Workshop**SATURDAY, MARCH 8****High School Age or Older** for livestock members interested in livestock reproduction

Hosted by Bluestem Embryo Transfer Center (BETC)

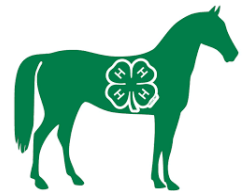
Register at www.bluestembryo.com**Market Lamb and Market Goat Weigh-in**When: **Tuesday, May 6th, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.**Where: **Central Kansas Free Fairgrounds****Wild Bill (Sheep, Swine, and Meat Goat) Showdown**When: **Saturday, May 10th**Where: **Central Kansas Free Fairgrounds****State Livestock Nominations**

Updated information on nominating livestock for the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show is available at: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>. The process is **completely online**, so please check out the required steps now so you don't miss anything.

Swine Tagging

All market barrows must be at the fairgrounds for the **ONLY** tagging date – **Tuesday, April 29th, 6-8 p.m.** Swine will be tagged on the trailer with ear notches recorded. To address disease concerns, families will be encouraged to tag their own animals, plastic boot covers will be worn, and taggers will be disinfected and dried between trailers to prevent cross-contamination. Those with farrowing operations will receive more information in the mailed/emailed tagging letter. Contact our office with questions.

Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest Kansas 4-H, Kansas Quarter Horse Association, and EquiFest of Kansas are teaming up to host the 2025 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. The Contest will be held March 21, 2025, in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas in Salina.



Two contests are available- an open contest and a 4-H contest. Kansas 4-H members age 9-18 are invited to participate in the 4-H contest, and may also participate in the open contest. Youth of any age are eligible to participate in the open contest hosted by Kansas Quarter Horse Association. Cost to enter the 4-H contest is \$25. Registration for the open contest is \$15. Coaches should register teams and individuals [here](#). Registration closes March 7th.

Discovery Days This popular event will be held **June 4-6** on the K-State Manhattan campus for youth ages 13-18 before January 1. The Dickinson County 4-H Foundation will provide 50% scholarships for attendees. Registration and more information will be available at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/discovery-days/index.html>.

Tri-County Fair Information

The Tri-County Fair is scheduled in Herington **July 10th – 12th**. Now accepting applications for the 2025 Fair King and Fair Queen. The contest is open to any active 4-H and/or FFA member. Candidates can range in age from 14 to 19, or any candidate who has not had their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year. Educational scholarships will be awarded to all eligible candidates: • Each King and each Queen award recipient- \$1,000 • Each First Runner-Up award recipient - \$500 • Each Second-Runner-Up award recipient - \$250 • Any other eligible candidate who was not an award recipient - \$100. Candidates will be judged based on a point system covering a personal interview and application packet, fair support monies, and their level of interaction during the fair. Applications are due **May 1**. This contest is not limited to a single King or Queen candidate per club or chapter. If there are multiple candidates from a single chapter or club interested in applying, all are encouraged to do so. See your club leader or contact our office for more information.

Decorated Cookie Jar Auction

The following clubs will be making cookies and decorating a cookie jar to be auctioned at the CKFF livestock sale this year **Newbern Wideawakes, Sand Springs Rustlers, Solomon Wrangles, and Willowdale**. Proceeds go to the Dickinson County 4-H Council to fund the county-wide program. Keep in mind that cookies sell best when lots of club members are there to display their jar!

**Reminders on Club Banners from Joetta Nagely, CKFF Banner Superintendent**

- Colors: light on dark or dark on light.....when standing at a distance, letters or whole words can be lost if there is not a contrast in color.
- Cover several areas of 4-H don't duplicate by saying the same thing twice.
- Balance for the male and female audience make it appealing for both.
- No 3-D..... please check the rules in the fair paper.
- Lettering.....not too small. Must be able to read from a distance.
- Background when using felt, be careful it stretches. Smooth edges look nicer.
- Enter your banner at the Tri-County Fair. Making a banner costs money and one more premium check will help pay for the supplies.
- Club name may not be on the front of the banner as part of the design.

CKFF Queen and King Reminder

Don't forget to turn in your club's names for the CKFF King and Queen contest! Nominations are due to the Extension Office by **June 15th**. Talk to your organizational leaders for more information.

Foods, Fiber Arts, and Clothing Labels

Members in clothing, fiber arts, or other exhibits needing a label, can make their own label on a piece of cloth with a permanent or laundry type marker. Labels should be about 3" x 2½" in size and include exhibitor name, class number and county. For Foods items, there is a label template available for download at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/fairs/kansas-state-fair/index.html> under "Foods and Nutrition". We have foods and food preservation labels available at the office.

Reminder: Electrical Code for CKFF

You may not use box fans with the 2-prong cord attached to a 3-prong adapter. You **must** use a commercial grade 3-prong electrical cord.

Livestock Educational Materials

Lots of great livestock materials are available on the Kansas Youth Livestock page at: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/educational-materials.html>. This includes guides and videos from junior livestock producer days hosted virtually and at Kansas State University.

FSA Youth Loan Program

The FSA youth loan program is designed to help rural youth establish and operate an income-producing project of modest size relating to their participation in 4-H or FFA. The goal of the youth loan is to help youth develop an income-producing project that expands their knowledge of their projects and provides them with practical business knowledge. For more information see the FSA Rural Youth Loan Fact Sheet: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/youth-loans/index>.

Responsibilities of Parents in the 4-H Program:

- Show interest in what your children are doing and give them encouragement.
- Provide materials and equipment your child may need, as able.
- Help the club and leader when asked. Don't wait to be asked, VOLUNTEER!
- See that your child finishes as well as starts their project(s). Be a "shadow helper" - guide, advise, help - but let the child do his or her own work.
- Encourage your child when they succeed and even more when they fail. Encourage and reward effort and progress, as well as the end results. Help your 4-Her be a good sport and appreciate the success of others. Support the 4-H leaders. Let the leaders know you appreciate them. Make 4-H a family affair, get the whole family involved in 4-H activities.
- Learn and support the goals and objectives of 4-H. Remember, the development of youth is the mission.
- Know that you are building for the future.
- Know that today's 4-H activities build the citizens and leaders of tomorrow.



Changes to Kansas 4-H Project – Interior Design & Architecture

This project is currently in its pilot year (2025) and most exhibit categories are new. 4-H members interested in exhibiting in this project have been invited to be involved in statewide project meetings and discussions throughout the 2025 4-H year via an email from 4HOnline. Let us know if you missed that information and would like to be involved!

- **INTERIOR DESIGN FOCUS:** Interior Designers have a capacity to influence the way we feel when we inhabit a space. In some instances, this impact can be felt emotionally and physically, in other words, it can affect our mood. Tools such as color, light, texture and pattern can all be used to convey or stimulate such a response to a space.
- **ARCHITECTURE FOCUS:** Architects plan, design and oversee the construction of buildings and other structures beginning with concept development to the final construction phase of projects. It's also important that they ensure the final product is safe and functional. Architects balance artistic creativity with sound building techniques while also considering how the built environment impacts people's emotions and lifestyle.

NW 4-H Judging Event and Super Saturday

The 2025 NW 4-H Super Saturday Judging Contest and Project Opportunities that is hosted by the NW 4-H Advisory Committee and helpers will be helped on **Saturday, March 22, 2025, in Colby, Kansas** at the Colby Community College Student Union and Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Morning Judging Contest: Crops, Horticulture, Photography, Life Skills, Livestock Skill-a-thon, and Entomology \$7.00 (one or all contests)

Afternoon Judging Contest: Livestock Judging

Afternoon Project Opportunities: Engineering and Technology and Visual Arts Stations \$5.00

Also a Parents/Volunteer Session will be held. FREE

Sack Lunch Provided for \$8.00

Registration Link - Due March 17th https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dajjdd7SK7HICeW

I pledge my **H** **AD** to clearer thinking,

my **HE** **RT** to greater loyalty,

my **H** **NDS** to larger service,

and my **HE** **LTH** to better living,

for my club, my community, my country

and my world. 

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact **Jill Martinson** two weeks prior to the start of the event at **785-263-2001 or martinso@ksu.edu**. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

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